wheat and rice at specially subsidized rates under ITDP.

(c) Food subsidy is given to Food Corporation of India only for handling foodgrains.

(d) The specific type of service rendered by FCI is unique to this organisation, and hence its handling charges are not comparable with that of other organisations.

Working of the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission

2418. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the routine exercises of the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission for fixing procurement prices are outdated;

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to rectify the same; and

(c) whether Government are aware that a State Government had written-off short-term and long term loans of farmers consequent upon the failure of the Commission to fix procurement prices in time and with a view to relieve the farmers of the cost escalation in their agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENLRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government are not aware of writing off short-term and long-term loans of farmers by any State Government consequent upon alleged failure of Government to fix procurement prices in time in consultation with Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.

Infrauctuous expenditure by the Department of Steel

2419. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in his Report for 1985-86 had considered that the amount of Rs. 15 crores incurred by the Department of Steel was an infrauctuous expenditure;

(b) whether Government also considered that the amount spent on Vijayanagar Steel Plant in Karnataka and Neelachal Steel Plant in Orissa were unnecessary and wasteful expenditure; and

(c) if so, what steps Government had taken to fix the responsibility on officials who were involved in these type of expenditures?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Import of contaminated butter

2420. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the various Press Reports particularly 'Sunday Observer' of the 24th May, 1987 from Bombay regarding contaminated butter imported by Indian Dairy Corporation and if so, the quantity and value of butter and butter oil imported by Dairy Corporation since 1984 from EEC countries and Ireland; and

(b) whether butter which has been alleged as contaminated was properly examined and whether samples drawn as per Rules and if so, what is the degree of contamination of harmful agents in butter and whether it was suitable for human consumption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government's attention has been drawn to the various Press Reports. The Indian Dairy Corporation (IDC) received 19,016 MT of butter oil and 10,713 MT of butter (prov.) during 1984-85 to 1986-87 as gift from the European Economic Community which also includes Ireland.

(b) Samples from the consignment of butter were drawn by the IDC and sent for analysis to Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) as per normal procedure and BARC certified release of this consignment for human consumption. Further, samples of this consignment were also sent by the Bombay Milk Scheme to BARC and the test report certified that none of the samples contained even detectable level of radio-activity and they are safe for human consumption. As a result of the controversy, BARC drew further samples from this consignment and found that none of the samples showed any detectable level of radio-activity and they were safe for human consumption.

Allotment of accommodation to wards of the retired employees of Rajya Sabha Secretariat

2421. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether entitled type of accommodation is allotted to sons/daughters/wards of retired employees of Rajya Sabha Secretariat who enter Government Service before their parents retirement, and are entitled to accommodation from the General Pool, provided they do not draw house rent allowances while living with their parents, as is admissible to the wards of other General Pool-entitled Government Servants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): As per rules the wards of the retired Government Servants are allotted accommodation one type below their entitlement except in cases where their eligibility is for type 'B' and 'A'. Wards of retired employees of Rajya Sabha in occupation of General pool accommodation are provided residential accommodation if they are eligible for allotment from general pool subject to fulfilment of prescribed conditions.

Allotment of land to Cooperative Group Housing Societies

2422. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names and number of Housing Co-operative Societies which have been allotted land by the DDA during the last two years;

(b) the amount taken as deposit from these societies for the allotments of land on lease or sale by DDA; and

(c) the total area of land allotted to these societies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No Cooperative Group Housing Society has been allotted land during the last two years.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.